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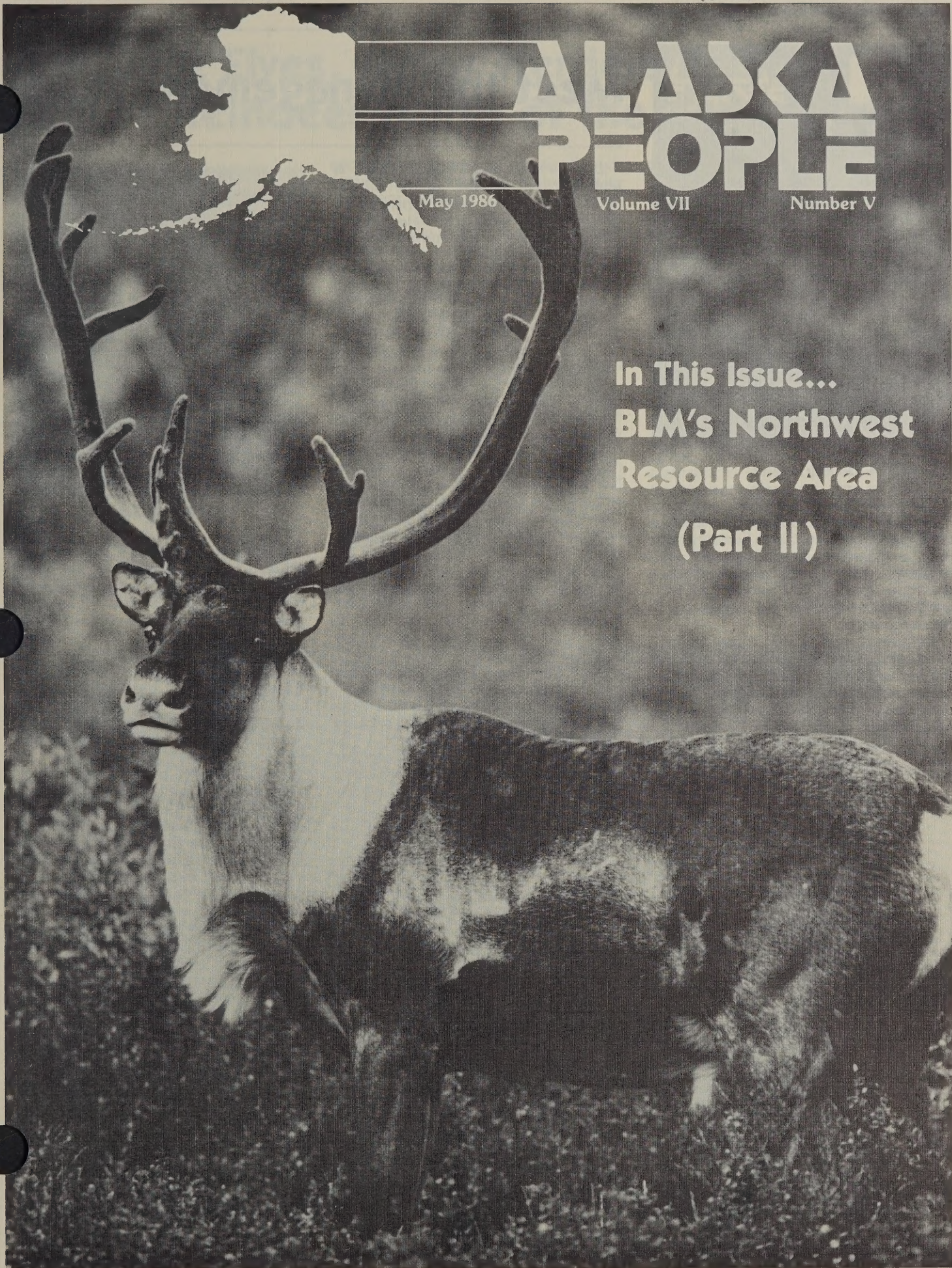
# ALASKA PEOPLE

May 1986

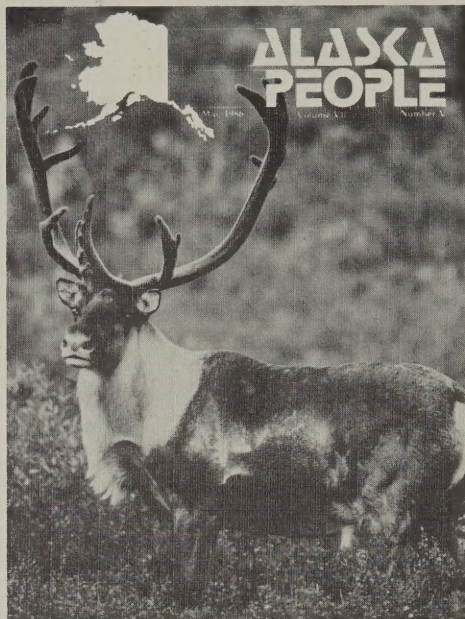
Volume VII

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**Resource Area**  
**(Part II)**







## ON THE COVER:

*Caribou or reindeer?*

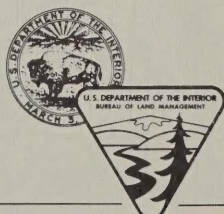
Caribou are native to North America while reindeer are native to Europe and Asia. Reindeer were imported to Alaska in 1902 from Russia. Now there are more than 12,000 reindeer in 13 grazing allotments in the Northwest Resource area.

Reindeer will drift away and interbreed with their caribou cousins if the herders aren't vigilant. Unlike the other members of the deer family, both male and female reindeer and caribou have antlers.

photo courtesy of Harold Wilson, Alaska Society of Outdoor and Nature Photographers.

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# Meet the Management Team

Every month ALASKA PEOPLE is featuring one member of the Alaska BLM Management Team. This month, an interview with the new project manager for the Trans-Alaska Gasline System, Jules Tileston.

"Getting the TAGS Right-of-Way and EIS through all the hoops and over all the hurdles is what I see as my short term goal right now," says project manager Jules Tileston.

Until recently the deputy director for Lands and Renewable Resources, Tileston is now BLM's project manager working with Yukon Pacific Corporation on a proposal for a liquid natural gas (LNG) pipeline from the North Slope fields to a deepwater port either on the Valdez Arm or in the lower Cook Inlet. Yukon Pacific Corporation hopes to export the liquid natural gas to the Pacific Rim countries.

Jules grew up on his grandfather's farm just outside of Indianapolis. His father was a hotel and restaurant manager and his mother a teacher. "It was sort of a mixed urban-rural lifestyle," says Jules.

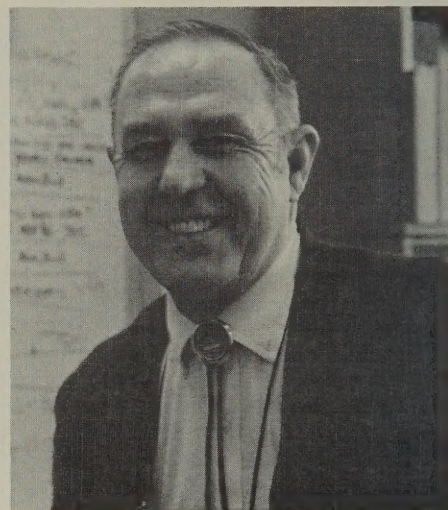
At Earlham College in Richmond, Ind., he majored in biology and geology. After a stint in the Army, he went on to graduate studies in wildlife and ecology at Colorado State University.

"I first joined BLM in the Colorado State Office right after graduate school in 1961," says Jules. "I was a lands examiner/outdoor recreation specialist, one of the original 12 recreation specialists in the BLM."

Soon after the Bureau of Outdoor Recreation (BOR) was formed, Jules transferred over as a recreation specialist and served in Denver. While with the BOR, he was selected for middle management training in Washington, D.C., after which he worked in the Washington headquarters of BOR.

"I was lucky enough to get a Congressional Fellowship and worked in Congress for a year, half with the Senate Public Works Committee and half with Representative Howard Pollack of Alaska. The Congressional Fellowship is an annual program. The candidates are chosen from federal employees, teachers, and the political news media."

Jules transferred to Alaska in May 1972 to work on the wild and scenic river studies. "In 1974, I returned to the BLM when Curt McVee hired me as team leader for the Multimodal



Jules Tileston

Transportation Study. I moved from there to team leader for the Gas Pipeline EIS and then on to deputy state director for Lands and Renewable Resources. Now I have come full cycle to program manager of the Trans-Alaska Gasline System."

Jules' wife, Peg, is treasurer of Chugach Electric and very active in local politics. "The standing joke around town," says Jules, "is that she is so well known, that I am known as 'Mr. Peg'."

"We are very proud of our three daughters. The eldest is head of data processing for the Anchorage library system. Our middle daughter works at Cornell University to support her interest in horses and will be earning her degree in business administration. Our youngest daughter is a sophomore, also in business administration, at the University of Arizona. She ran her own office services business in Anchorage before going to Tucson.

"My long term goal is to get my 'six pack license'. No, it's not what you think! It is a license for commercial boat operations with up to six paying passengers. Peg and I plan to stay in Alaska. We have both a charter sailboat and a power boat which we use for recreational cruising, fishing, and to reach remote areas for camping and hiking. I plan to operate commercial fishing trips and nature tours after retirement from the BLM.

"Last summer Peg and I attended our thirtieth reunion at Earlham College and will be hosting 18 people from the reunion for a two week sailing, geology, and nature tour of Alaska."



# BLM, Not Elves, Helps Herders Raise Santa's Reindeer North of the Arctic Circle

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

The Northwest Resource Area is garnering two firsts with one stroke in FY86 as its staff completes not only the first BLM grazing plan in Alaska but the first reindeer grazing plan for BLM. Grazing plans are more commonly associated with public domain in the western Lower 48 states; but as Native herders expand domestic reindeer herds in areas where wild caribou compete for forage, grazing plans have become necessary to maintain the productivity of lichen on the tundra.

Land ownership on the Seward Peninsula creates a "patchwork quilt" map, with blocks of all sizes and shapes owned by BLM, National Park Service, village corporations and the state of Alaska. On top of this patchwork quilt pattern is an overlay of grazing allotments permitted to individuals committed to herding reindeer. With the mixture of landowners and little on-the-ground definition of boundaries, a

cooperative agreement among all land owners regulating the use of the lands is a primary concern.

Larry Field, natural resource specialist, has been working with Soil Conservation Service (SCS) personnel and the other landowners towards an integrated grazing allotment plan within the Northwest Resource Area lands.

This initial plan, the first planning effort between BLM and SCS will cover the Merlin Henry grazing allotment. Once the prototype plan is completed and meets everyone's needs, the ultimate goal is to have a grazing plan for all reindeer grazing allotments. That will be a joint effort between BLM, National Park Service, SCS, Native groups and/or the state of Alaska, depending on the land ownership.

BLM began granting reindeer grazing permits in the early 60s. There are currently 13 grazing permits on the Seward Peninsula.

Under the current process the herder promises to abide by the terms

of the permit; and if he wants to make improvements to his allotment, such as adding a remote cabin, he must make new application to BLM. The new Comprehensive Resources Management Plan (CRMP) will identify various improvements that the herder would like to make and incorporate them into the plan without the necessity of obtaining additional permits. "The grazing plan will be in a constant state of refinement," Field said, "working with the herder and other land managers towards a grazing plan that will accommodate everyone's concerns."

Field is currently working with Merlin Henry, a reindeer herder living in the village of Koyuk, to complete a computer-assisted allotment management plan prototype for BLM-managed lands. "The computer-assisted approach will be monitored closely to see if it's feasible to use on other plans," Field said. "Henry is an excellent choice for the first AMP

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Seward Peninsula herders move reindeer through the "squeeze chute" for eartags and inoculations. (photo by Matt Robus)



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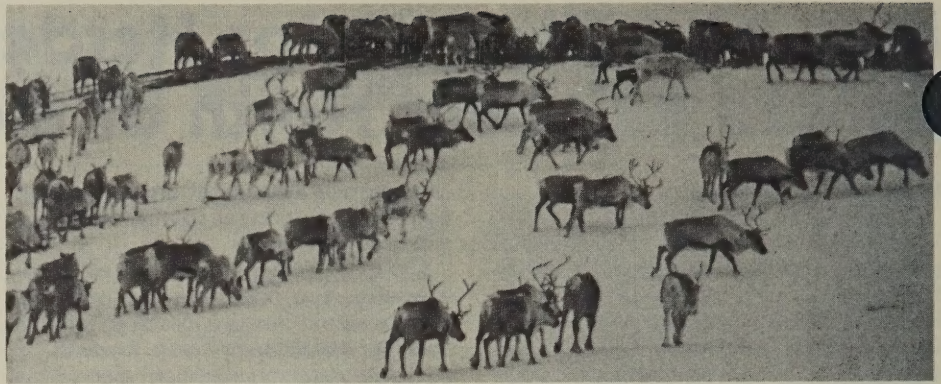
because he lives in close proximity to his herd's range, has a small family operation, and is willing to cooperate with BLM while making a success of his herd."

SCS will be completing grazing plans on all private property in the area. Its staff has developed interim management plans with some of the herders which will give a historical perspective of what has been done in the past on those lands.

With some of this historical information, land managers can look at utilization maps and identify key areas reindeer use during various seasons of the year.

BLM's primary goal on the Henry range is to maintain lichen productivity. BLM and SCS staff will conduct lichen condition and trend studies this summer to document the past effects of grazing in key areas. "If over-grazed it could take years to replenish the vegetation," Field said.

As mentioned earlier, the grazing plan is being developed with computer assistance, - the Geographic Information System, or GIS. This is a method of putting information into a computer to produce digitized overlays of information such as vegetative maps. One advantage is that acreage can be tabulated automatically



*A reindeer herd browses on winter range on the Seward Peninsula.*

by range types. Also as information is updated, changes can be entered and the computer immediately refigures the new data. Different possibilities of forage productivity for specific types of vegetation can also be computed.

"One important feature I expect to see," Field said, "is the ease of estimating the number of acres of summer range, winter range and fawning areas and the ability to enter utilization patterns over a period of time. The system should also allow us to make better estimates of productivity of the range as we continue to update existing data."

As a part of the plan, a snow model will also be developed on GIS which, when put on the computer and

compared with actual known conditions on some portions of the range, may give insights to snow depth and distribution on other areas of the range. If there is deep snow or ice in the area, browse will be covered and grazing will be precluded.

Field must determine the amount of winter range that can be utilized; that figure may be a limiting factor on the number of reindeer that can be run on this grazing allotment. Field has relied on Bob Gal, the NWRA representative in Kotzebue, to conduct utilization monitoring this past winter.

Reindeer herding is a labor-intensive operation. Most of the herders are trying to build their herds up. The reindeer provide meat for the villages and an income for the herder and his family. But if the herder doesn't stay with the herd, he can lose them easily. They can wander off with caribou, stray to other ranges, and significantly alter grazing range if too many are in an area in the wrong season. "It takes a lot of commitment on the herder's part," Field affirmed. Eartags are used to mark the reindeer, and University of Alaska personnel have been helping the herders develop the program so they can track the life history of individual animals.

Field is looking forward to flying to Koyuk this summer to check on key areas to determine present range conditions. "The comprehensive resource management plan is a starting point for all of us — not just BLM but all the agencies on the Seward Peninsula," Field emphasized. "We have to look at the numbers and distribution of the animals, the use they can make of the land, and maintain or improve the present range condition. And we can't look at just BLM land anymore — most of it is interspersed with other land owners. Reindeer herding is coming of age in the Northwest Resource Area."



*A reindeer herder and his son immobilize a reindeer to check for injury.*



# Biologists Inventory NW's Fisheries

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

In an effort to obtain the greatest results from every investment of time and money, field trips into the area managed by the Northwest Resource Area are designed to achieve a variety of objectives for the multi-disciplined specialists. Joe Webb, district fisheries biologist, is assigned to the Yukon Resource Area but has conducted fisheries studies throughout the lands of the Fairbanks District Office. Several very important studies have been in the Northwest Resource Area.

"It is extremely critical that we identify concentrated fish spawning populations and locations in rivers and streams right now," Area Manager Roger Bolstad said. "This information will be particularly important as we recycle our Northwest Resource Area Plan in 1990. We want to maximize mineral development, yet protect important fisheries habitat. Right now there are many gaps in our information."

For example, during the summer of 1985 Joe Webb's team conducted a fisheries inventory and survey on the Tubutulik River. Situated east of Nome, it drains a portion of the southern half of the Seward Peninsula into Norton Sound. The team found spawning salmon in previously undocumented streams, increasing BLM's knowledge of the upper limits of several species of salmon.

The team, consisting of Scott Robinson and Larry Field of NWRA and Bill Parsons of Alaska Fire Service, was also able to delineate areas within the stream which appeared to be the most valuable spawning habitat for king salmon and chum salmon. This is relevant because much of the immediate watershed has been staked for locatable minerals by a mineral company. More than 1,100 claims lie within the area. "We also assessed the recreational potential for the river," Webb added. "It has high potential as a recreational fishery, and at the present time it is only lightly utilized, if at all."

Howard Smith, NWRA natural resource specialist, accompanied Webb and Robinson on a later trip to the Squirrel River area where the interdisciplinary team conducted surveys on fisheries, cultural resources and swans. Clery and Timber creeks, two tributaries of the Squirrel River, were visited to assess the utilization of the streams by salmon and other

anadromous fish. Those streams were sampled because they flow through hills in which gold discoveries have been made. (Gold mining was quite active on Clery Creek in the 1930s.) Presently, there is one gold mine operating on each creek.

The potential impacts of gold mining on fisheries have been documented in many studies, and it is important that BLM know which streams have significant fisheries and require monitoring.

Not only do the specialists cooperate between resource areas, but some projects entail cooperation between districts. Webb joined Mike Scott of the Anchorage District Office in a joint inventory of fish habitat in the Unalakleet River watershed during July 1985. The surface management of the watershed is shared jointly by the two districts, while the national wild river corridor is under management of a river management plan developed by ADO.

The upper river watershed is within the Northwest Resource Area's Central Yukon Planning Area, and the area's high fishery value was given special consideration in the plan. The primary objective of the inventory effort was to define upper limits of distribution of arctic (Dolly Varden) char and four species of Pacific salmon (chinook, coho, chum, pink).

The inventory was one phase of ADO's Unalakleet River Master Aquatic Habitat Management Plan. Sampling efforts were concentrated in the upper reaches of the major tributary streams (Chiroskey, North, North Fork, Old Woman and Upper Unalakleet) and many of their smaller tributaries.

A total of 36 locations were sampled for the presence of fish. Char and coho salmon fingerlings were found in nearly all of the small tributary streams sampled, with many of them being about one to two inches long. Some large fingerlings of char and dwarf stream resident char were captured in some areas.

"We discovered some very interesting information about fishery habitat that is quite detailed," Webb said. "The most significant conclusions, which are spelled out in a detailed report Mike Scott and I wrote, are that small tributary streams and headwater areas of the major streams in the Unalakleet River system are used for spawning and rearing habitat by coho salmon and arctic char. There were no observations to indicate that any one of these streams was of crucial importance to the population as a whole, but collectively they constitute habitat of great importance to char and salmon populations utilizing the Unalakleet system."

The health and well-being of the fish populations within the Northwest Resource Area will grow increasingly important in future years as people begin to use the public lands of the Seward Peninsula. They are currently used for commercial and sports fishing and are an important source of food for subsistence users. "As the public realizes the great potential of sport-fishing waters that are within easy access of Nome," Bolstad said, "the demand on those waters will increase. I think BLM needs to strive right now to identify all crucial fisheries habitat so those areas can be protected for the use of future generations."



*Yes, this really is work! Two fisheries biologists venture far from the office and into the Alaskan wilderness to discover more about NW Alaska's fisheries resources.*



# NW's Realty Specialists Keep BLM Out of Hot Water

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

The intrepid band of realty and natural resource specialists in the Northwest Resource Area continues to plow through the paperwork of government land management despite all that falls around them. Because of its critical nature to the conveyance and proper management of lands, realty work did not suffer as much as other programs during the recent budget cuts, "although you never know what the future will bring," they echo in unison.

The team of Don Emery, Boyce Bush and Howard Smith, led by Herb Brownell, keeps a hectic pace with an incredible stack of casefiles. To understand what they do, the observer must learn a new language.

## Easement Management

Probably the hottest issue at the present time is easements. Easements are the trails or roads across private land that allow users to reach public land. These easements have been reserved in conveyances as land is transferred to Native corporations created by the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act. However, as the specialists get out on the ground to check out the locations, they are finding more and more that the lines drawn on the maps don't correspond to the trails on the ground.

"Another problem," Bush related, "emerged last week when I visited a 25-mile trail through Native lands in the Minto area by snowmachine. I found that the trail is not suitable for winter use, so we may have to negotiate with the Native landowners for a new location. They seem agreeable; and as soon as procedural guidance is finalized, we'll proceed." The resource area contains 38 Native villages, all with easements in their conveyances. Many haven't been seen on the ground. The potential problems may create a major workload in the years to come.

## Hot Springs Management

Hot springs in Alaska are a limited resource, and any future development is to be for public use. There are leases on three hot springs in the Northwest Resource Area — Kilo, Melozitna and Tolovana. Kilo has three cabins built by a private developer, but access is limited to snowmachine and helicopter or to pilots who enjoy landing on ridgetops. Melozitna Hot Springs is the most successful development of the three, with a small lodge and a short, but serviceable runway for aircraft. Under the Central Yukon Resource Management Plan, no additional hot springs will be leased in the future.

## Allotments in Patent Plan Windows

When land is interim conveyed (IC'd) to a Native corporation, the corporation owns the land and assumes the rights of a landowner. However, the corporation doesn't really know what it owns until the exterior boundaries of its land, and any inholdings (usually Native allotments), are surveyed.

BLM has prioritized Native allotment surveys from 1986 through 1989 in a process called the Patent Plan. Of these priority surveys Northwest Resource Area realty staff will be responsible for completing field examinations on approximately 120 Native allotments during the summer of '86 so Cadastral can survey them, paving the way for patent.

## Minchumina Settlement Area

First opened to settlement in 1982, filings have slowed in this area, but the "Boyce Bush area" keeps busy. Bush flies to the settlement area about six times a year to do interim reports on all claims filed. From an original 65 claimants, four have applied for patent. Bush has completed final reports on these, recommending approval for three and contesting one.

Under an extension for Alaska granted by the Federal Lands Policy and Management Act, potential applicants have until October 21, 1986, to appropriate new land by showing some visible sign of serious intent (clear it, cut logs, put up a cache) and file with BLM. However, limited access remains a problem. On the last trip after the realty staff's aircraft landed on a small lake, they skied to the sites they were inspecting.

## Withdrawal Work

BLM doesn't always give away land to others; sometimes it gets it back. The Northwest realty staff is currently working on nine revocation and restoration actions on withdrawal sites

that have been relinquished to BLM by the Air Force, the Coast Guard and the National Guard.

The sites were no longer needed, but debris dumps were left behind both on and off the withdrawals. BLM has field examined most of the sites, and many will probably not be recommended as suitable for return to the public domain. The land and improvements of those would then be referred to GSA, who will dispose of the land and improvements under its authorities. The lands that are recommended as suitable will be retained as public domain or disposed of to the state or Native corporations.

In a different type of withdrawal action, the staff has the Indian Mountain withdrawal application pending. The Air Force wants to withdraw one square mile around each of five seismic holes to provide a buffer zone that will prevent unauthorized surface disturbance near their project.

## Rights-Of-Way Permits

The staff is currently working on five withdrawals with more expected in the near future. Most of these applications are along the Parks Highway for telephone and power lines.

## FLPMA Leases

Under the terms of the Federal Land Policy Management Act, BLM is authorized to grant leases for defined activities after appropriate evaluation. The staff is currently renewing four of these FLPMA leases for trapping cabins, which is a valid use.



Herb Brownell tests the temperature of the



## Miscellanies

When the realty team is not tending to all these major chores, they continue with compliance checks for rights-of-way, material sites, and recreation and public purpose permits. Smith conducts all the archaeological clearances for permits for the area. He is also in charge of issuing recreation permits, studying potential research of natural area designations on the Seward Peninsula, reviewing 3809 actions, and reviewing 810 subsistence reports.

For a change of pace, staff members Brownell and Scott Robinson supported community activities in April by driving to Anderson, 120 miles south of Fairbanks, to attend the career fair at the Railbelt School District. Once there they spent the day discussing federal careers with teenagers, explaining what it's like to work for the BLM in Fairbanks, Alaska.

The entire realty staff agrees that getting out to the field is what they look forward to most in their jobs. None would want to be left behind while the rest of the staff explores the most varied resource area in Alaska.

# Lone Geologist Covers NW's Minerals Beat



*Jim Deininger, NWRA geologist, checks shock waves on a portable seismograph.*

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

As the only geologist in a resource area of heavy mineral activity, Jim Deininger finds his days are never long enough. Sorting through stacks of case files, reference manuals and research books in his office, he pulls out his latest patent exam to illustrate why a geologist can only process an average of three mineral patent exams a year.

A typical field exam consists of more than one mineral patent application, with anywhere from one to 50 or more mining claims per application.

The exam file, approximately two inches thick, contains a lengthy history of the claim, an incredibly complicated cost analysis of the operation, maps, sample data, and pictures Deininger has taken to substantiate the exam work. The package represents months of tedious work in addition to the field time. It covers three mineral patent applications and 12 placer mining claims of about 20 acres each.

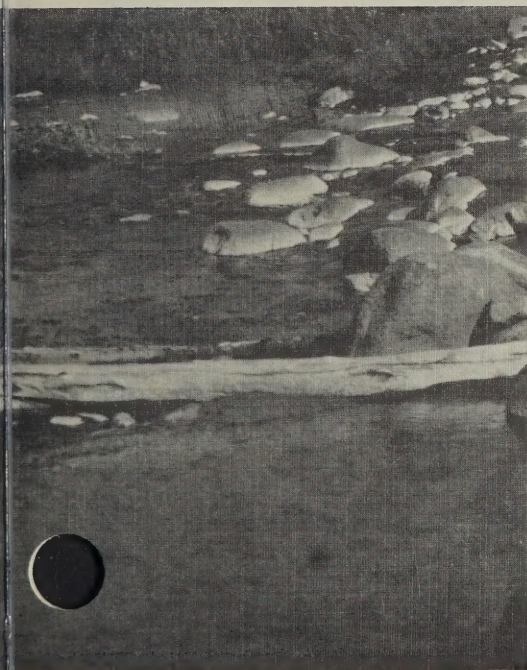
"There are several steps to processing a patent exam to completion," Deininger said, "and I don't get involved until a minerals adjudicator indicates that the title looks good. Then I contact the applicant and arrange a pre-site exam. This is generally the summer before the final exam to give the applicant ample time to prepare for the patent exam."

"We discuss with the miner what he needs to prove his claim to BLM. We have to verify his discovery for him through the exam, but this does not mean we prospect for him."

"In the case of a shallow deposit, this may only require a bulldozer or backhoe; but in deeper deposits, such as in the Nome area, a drill will probably have to be hired by the applicant," he said.

The next step occurs the following summer when BLM staff members go out to the claim. The equipment must be there, and the applicant digs out the sample for the geologist to test. With placer gold and placer tin, an E-Z Panner is used with a vibrating screen. It is compact enough to go into a single-engine airplane.

Deininger then pans the test sample down to a black sand concentrate, which he brings back to the mineral lab at the district and amalgamates the sand before weighing up the gold or tin. In the mineral report he puts together a fairly detailed mining cost analysis for a mining operation judged suitable for that ground. If the mining comes within the limits of reliability of the value of what the ground is worth, he will recommend the claim be clearlisted for patent.



*ater at Kito Hot Springs (photo Boyce Bush)*

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Lode exams require a different technique. To sample bedrock the applicant drills a core sample with a diamond core drill that he provides. Deininger also collects splits of core samples the applicant has kept from previous years. If the deposit is exposed on the surface, he can take rock samples with a chisel and moil. In either of these cases, the samples are sent off to a commercial lab for chemical analysis.

A lode exam requires the same or more detailed mineral report. The value per ton of ore mined is compared to the cost per ton to mine to determine whether or not a discovery has been made on each claim.

"On Native-selected lands, where 95 percent of the patent workload occurs, the discovery has to be verified for both the date the lands were withdrawn (December 18, 1971, by the passage of the Alaska Native Claims Settlement Act) and the date the mineral patent application was filed with BLM," Deininger said. He uses the cost formulas the Stramm Company developed for the Bureau of Mines. "These are so complicated it takes me three days to run through the calculations by hand once the mining and milling parameters have been determined," he explained, "and I have to do it twice because costs must be figured for both dates. I'm in the process now of writing a computer program for the STRAMM formulas. Then I can plug in the parameters and have the same results in seconds."

Deininger estimates that he spends 80 percent of his time on patent exams. He had the unique privilege this past season of conducting the first joint patent exam with the National Park Service in the historic Kantishna Mining District.

Long known as a highly productive mineralized district, the Kantishna was annexed into the northern extension of the Denali Park in 1982 with the passage of the Alaska National Interest Lands Conservation Act.

These federal mining claims predated the annexation and the mine operators are now proceeding to patent. Last summer BLM examined three mineral patent applications involving nine placer mining claims located on Moose Creek and its tributaries.

After conducting four mineral patent exams on lode flint, tin and tungsten claims in the Lost River area some 90 air miles northwest of Nome, Deininger also conducted exams on five placer gold patent applications for claims located on Second Beach at Nome. Those claims haven't been worked since World War II, although the company holding the applications is still

operating a dredge nearby.

"Those exams on Second Beach were probably the first patent exams done in Nome in the winter," Deininger said. "The claims are in the middle of tundra and swamp, and there is no way to get to them until the ground is frozen."

Also, the people who were to help on the exam were working on the gold dredge at the time, so we waited until it shut down for the winter. We work very hard to accommodate our miners.

"We did the exams the week of December 6 at 14 degrees fahrenheit with a ground blizzard blowing. We hooked up to hot water at the Gold Company's office to run the E-Z panner. That was a cold exam!"

Probably the hardest part of taking a claim to patent, according to Deininger, is getting clear title to the land. Most of the claims he examines these days were filed at the turn of the century.

Records have been lost over the years — the Nome land office has burned twice during that time. Many of the claims have been inherited several times down the line, and an applicant must get releases from all relatives who may have an interest in a claim.

A lot of the claims are not being worked these days since the cost of mining rose dramatically after World War II.

When the patent is issued, the applicant receives fee simple title to the land for both surface and mineral rights. There are no restrictions on what the new owner can do on his property after that.

Other than in settlement areas, mineral patent is the only way one can obtain land from the public domain. After all the filing fees, survey costs, title and legal fees, and costs of preparing a patent application and opening discovery points for BLM to sample, it costs the applicant \$600-\$800 an acre for the land.

The other 20 percent of Deininger's time is spent on 3809 surface management. The Northwest Resource Area received eight plans of operation and 37 notices of operation last year, and Deininger completed all the paperwork and field compliance exams.

He made on-the-ground inspections of all the plan's sites and half the notice's sites during the field season.

Does all this exposure to minerals ever make him wish he had gone into mining? "No," Deininger said emphatically, "it's hard work. And unless you inherit the claims and equipment, have lots of money, or are a good promoter, it's a tough business to break into these days. I like the variety of seeing lots of different mining operations, working with miners, and puzzling out the nature of the mineral occurrences."

# Nome Field

by Sharon Durgan Wilson

BLM's Nome field office, which is part of FDO's Northwest Resource Area, has actually been operating in Alaska longer than BLM. Fred Payton, the current representative in the public office in Nome, has been collecting and compiling a history of the field office in his spare time. "Outside of a few brief intervals, someone has been present at this office since 1907," says Payton. "The Bureau of Land Management didn't appear in Alaska until 1946."

The office was originally part of the General Land Office in the Department of Justice. The office records were transferred to Fairbanks and merged with the Fairbanks land office in the late 1940s. The BLM Fairbanks district reopened the Nome office for contact with the general public and the mining community in the 1960s.

To offer proof of the birth date of the office, Payton displays a copy of the *Nome Daily Gold Digger*, the newspaper of the day, dated March 1, 1907. A news article on the front page of that issue announced that one of four Alaskan bills passed by the Senate in Washington, D.C., provided for the establishment of land offices at Nome and Fairbanks.

"It also provides that the clerk of the district court and the United States marshal in each division shall act as register and receiver respectively, and that they shall be paid a salary of fifteen hundred dollars per annum, to be derived from the land office fees. The salary is made provisional upon the fees received."

*Nome Daily Gold Digger.*

After 28 years of working for BLM, Payton is more than content to spend his days in Nome. He worked in both Fairbanks and Anchorage for several years; and his wife, Ethel, worked for BLM in Fairbanks for three seasons as a payroll clerk in the late '50s. The Paytons have lived in Alaska since 1951 and have lived in Nome for the past six years.

Most of Payton's time in Nome is spent helping the general public in land matters. He has complete records of land status in Nome, with the master title plats on aperture cards. "We have hundreds and hundreds of patented mining claims in the area," he said. "Most of the private lands in the Nome area were originally mining claims that are now patented." The Nome area also



# ld Office Dates To 1907

contains one of the largest concentrations of *unpatented* mining claims in the state of Alaska. He sees from 10 to 15 people every day regarding land matters. Many come in to check on Native allotments, others to check on lands that are open to mineral location.

A geologist by training, Payton has conducted mineral-in-character exams on Native allotments, completed a basic inventory on mineral resources in the Bendeleben Mountains, and has assisted geologist Jim Deininger with patent exams in the Nome area.

Payton also spends a large amount of his time coordinating with local people, helping resolve conflicts on Native allotments and assisting with the reindeer grazing program. Always involved with the Nome community, he attended the Eskimo Elders Conference last February, presenting a program about BLM and answering many questions. "Part of the job here is to let people know what BLM is all about, and that knowledge comes from working for BLM over many years. One has to have a well-rounded knowledge to answer all the questions in a one-person office," Payton assured.

Payton is going on his fifth year in Nome and says there's never an idle moment; he's busy all the time. "And I like it that way," he emphasized. The Nome field office is never technically closed because people know they can call Payton at home after office hours and he'll come in to research records for them. "This is an important service," he said, "because people come in from villages and from out-of-state with questions about their land, and their time schedules aren't always convenient. Sometimes they're in for only a short time and have to catch a plane or get out to another village. I don't mind helping them out when they need it."

To live in Nome people have to cope with changeable weather, less-than-urban living conditions and sporadic mail delivery. To make up for the isolation, Payton and his wife stay involved in the community. "You have to enjoy living here and be innovative," Payton claims. "You have to make do with what you have and make new things out of the materials you have on hand."

One of Payton's unique inventions is his "8-hour hourglass." Cementing two long-necked creme de menthe bottles together at the openings, he created a large hourglass. He filled it with the

exact amount of gold-bearing red sand (actually a garnet sand that he says is not found anywhere else in the world) that takes eight hours to run out. When the last few grains of sand fall through the neck of the top bottle, a bell rings to alert someone to tip it over and start again. Each day when Payton arrives at work, he turns his hourglass over and starts the sands running again. He also has a 24-hour hourglass for those "long" days.

Always a dreamer with visions for the future, Payton has one dream that he would like BLM to develop. The Kigluaik Mountain range is 38 miles north of Nome and is the only range of mountains that is mostly (95 percent) on BLM-managed land on the Seward Peninsula. Pronounced "Kig-lu-owk," it means "rugged" in Eskimo. The range is 60 miles long and about 35 miles wide, and the mountains within it are sharp

and rugged with no roads.

"The Kigluaiks are in a treeless area," says Payton, "and from the top of the mountains you can see forever. It is a fantastic range — primitive and isolated with vari-colored rocks and sharp cliffs — and provides great hiking and exceptional fishing experiences." There are many wild animals to see, Payton says, and there is appropriate road access to both the eastern and western ends of the range. "In my opinion BLM really should develop the recreation opportunities in this unique and beautiful mountain range."

If a smooth-running, problem-free office is an indication of a happy employee, then Fred Payton has attained job satisfaction. "Of all the places I've been to and all the places I've worked for BLM, this is the best," he added. "I like the country, I like the people, and I like my job."



*Fred Payton, (Nome's one-man office), demonstrates a gramophone similar to those used in Nome when the field office first opened in 1907.*

**Use what talents you possess; the woods would be very silent if no birds sang there except those that sang best.**

Bits & Pieces 8/80



# Position Classification Appeal Process

by Don Pino

Does your position description accurately reflect the kind of work you perform? Are you unhappy with the classification of your position? Problems such as these should be brought to the attention of your supervisor. This allows you and your supervisor to talk about your position description and examine the accuracy and intent of the PD. You and your supervisor are responsible for ensuring that the position description accurately describes the duties and full range of responsibilities that are assigned to you.

If you feel that your grade level or title is not correct, both you and your supervisor should contact the personnel office and review the problem with the position classification specialist. The classification specialist is responsible for ensuring that the PD is current and accurately portrays the kind of work assigned to you and that your job is properly classified. This is accomplished by reviewing your position description with you and your supervisor and having you show the classifier examples of your work. How you get your assignments, how you do your work and how your supervisor reviews your work all must be considered. The classifier also looks at the conditions that make your job difficult.

After the interview the classification specialist compares your position description with position classification standards and prepares an evaluation report based on findings, grade level criteria and occupational information that are described in the classification standards. The classification specialist then shares the evaluation report with you and your supervisor and discusses any disagreements that you or your supervisor may have.

If you are not satisfied with the classification of your position, you may consider an appeal. Classification appeals require that the appellant address only the actual duties that are assigned. They cannot be based on the classification of some other position. Employees have two levels of appeal available to them. They may appeal to either the Bureau headquarters, chief, Division of Personnel and Training, or to the Department of the Interior, director of personnel. Or the employee may bypass the Bureau and Department and appeal directly to the Office of Personnel Management

(OPM) in Seattle, Wash. If an employee first appeals to OPM, he/she cannot subsequently appeal to the Bureau or Department since OPM's decisions are final and binding. An appeal to either the Bureau or Department exhausts the employee's appeal rights within the Department. An employee who is dissatisfied with a Bureau or Departmental appeal decision may further appeal the decision to OPM.

Appeals should be submitted through the Alaska State Office, Branch of Personnel, because additional information, such as classification evaluation reports, functional statements, organizational charts, your supervisor's position description, and your PIPR, is needed by the adjudicative office.

While employees may directly appeal to the Bureau, Department or OPM, these appeals are returned to the servicing personnel office by the adjudicative office with a letter requesting that the above information be forwarded within 30 days. Classification sections that adjudicate classification appeals conduct an independent evaluation of the servicing personnel office to assure that all legal requirements are met in the application of classification standards and a fair and objective evaluation is conducted. The decisions that are rendered by classification adjudicative offices affect the appellant in one of three ways: 1) no change in classification, 2) change in title and series, or 3) an increase or decrease in grade level. In recent appeals the Department and OPM have ordered servicing personnel offices to conduct reviews of positions that were similar to the appellant's position.

These classification consistency reviews require a detailed evaluation of each position. For example, a budget officer (GM-560-13) in the Fish and Wildlife Service appeals the classification of his/her position. The Department evaluates the employee's position and determines that the proper classification for the concerned position is budget specialist (GS-560-11). As a result of this appeal the Department orders all agencies to evaluate positions in the GS-560 series and to submit evaluation reports to the Department.

Any questions regarding classification appeals should be referred to Don Pino, ext. 3168, or Connie Teffeteller, ext. 3140.

# BLM Tests Surveyors



by Bob Ward

Thirty applicants hunched over their test papers as they took part in a two-day mineral survey exam at the Anchorage District Office. The exam is offered based on the need for mineral surveyors. "This is the first time in more than four years the test was offered and the first time it's ever been offered in Alaska," says test proctor Dan Mates. "Alaska BLM expressed the need for the test and was chosen as the site for the exam."

Because the test is offered infrequently, interest was high. Seven of the 30 applicants were from Alaska and 23 were from various western states.

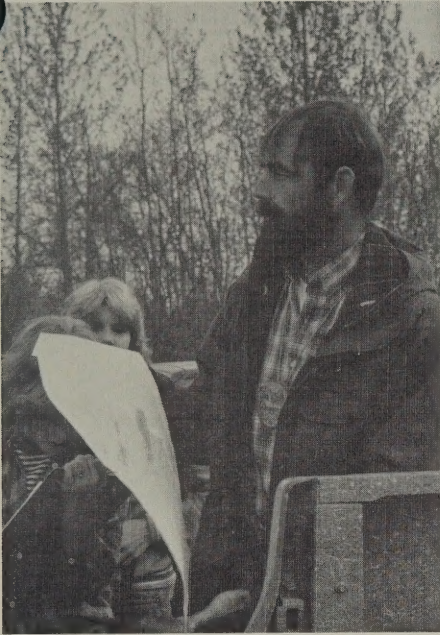
The exam was administered by Mates of the Washington Office Division of Cadastral Survey and Malcome McCone of the Alaska Division of Cadastral Survey, Branch of Cartography and Examinations. The test consisted of two parts. Part one was a written exam based on the regulations and procedures of the mineral survey and the Manual of Special Instructions. In part two the surveyors took solar sightings to determine bearings for plotting a survey.

Before a mining claim can be patented, it must receive an official U.S. mineral survey. This consists of a cadastral survey of the boundaries of the mining claim and must be done by a mineral surveyor certified by BLM. When applying for patent, a mining claimant hires a private mineral surveyor from the list which is maintained in each BLM state office.

The surveyor acts as a "special government employee" so that the survey is an official government report. The surveyor gets his instructions from BLM, performs the survey to those specifications, and files his report with the state office.



# Waggoner Goes Wild for Education



Van Waggoner

by Joette Storm

Van Waggoner is ADO's certified "wild" man. That's because he is trained as a Project Wild facilitator, training teachers to use the hundreds of learning activities that are part of the Project Wild program.

Designed to help children explore the natural world, Project Wild is an interdisciplinary environmental education program emphasizing wildlife. It was developed by the Western Association of Fish and Wildlife Agencies and the Western Environmental Education Council. It was developed to give teachers in the kindergarten through high school levels tools to teach such concepts as habitat, animal adaptations and population dynamics.

Recently Waggoner spent an entire day with the staff of Butte Elementary School in Palmer going through such activities as "stormy weather," a group exercise in visualizing how animals react to adverse weather conditions,

and "animal adaptations," the construction of "new" species of wildlife.

Waggoner served on a team with two other facilitators from the State Fish and Game and the Mat-Su school district. When they received their training, each agreed to be available to work with teachers across the state in Project Wild workshops. This was the first opportunity for Waggoner to meet his commitment, and he found it very enjoyable.

"The teachers were all young and very enthusiastic," says the biologist for the McGrath Resource Area.

Waggoner has also been sharing his skills with Anchorage teachers, both in the classroom and out. He will be taking Turnagain Elementary School second graders on a field trip later this month and plans to camp out with one of the classes participating in the Outdoor School pilot program on the Campbell Tract in May. Waggoner is also a participant in the Scientist in the Schools program.

## Lalla Studies Mt. Augustine

by Joette Storm

When Mt. Augustine began erupting recently, Doug Lalla, geophysicist in ADO's Division of Minerals, took more than a casual interest in it. Lalla has been studying the volcano since 1973 and has become something of an expert on the volcano's seismic activity.

Recently Lalla took the results of his years of research to the International Volcanological Congress in Auckland, New Zealand, to share with more than 500 colleagues from 34 countries.

Lalla's project revolved around the application of the Gaussian beam theory to measure the shape of energy returns occurring when there is a seismic event in a volcano. "The concept was developed by a Czechoslovakian scientist but had not been practically used," explains Lalla, who decided to monitor the location of earthquakes and magma movements as indicators of volcanic eruption.

Initially he was involved in the use of infrared radiometry and heat flow measurements as what he calls, "precursors" of eruptions; but when two years of research failed to foretell

an eruption, he looked for other indicators. With his new approach he hoped to show that by measuring seismic events at various locations around a volcano, he could more precisely determine the velocity structure and therefore locate more accurately the area in which the release of energy takes place.

Needless to say, geologists at the U.S. Geological Survey in Anchorage called on Lalla to interpret the seismograms of Mt. Augustine when events began occurring in March. In comparing the seismic activity this year with the data from 1975 and 1976, it became evident the patterns of activity were very similar.

"If the pattern continues with a period of quiet followed by more eruptions, we may begin to formulate some theory about the movement of magma prior to eruptions," says Lalla. Such measuring and forecasting can be especially important in countries such as New Guinea or Columbia where people have chosen to live on the slopes of volcanos and would be in mortal danger during an eruption.

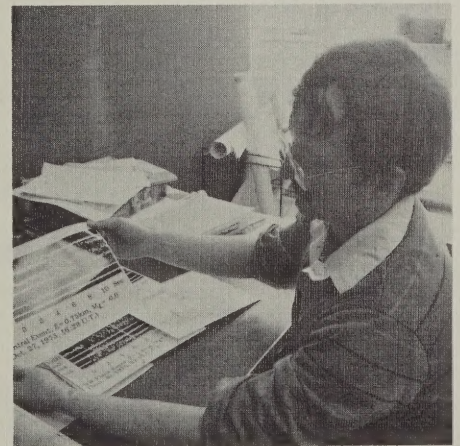
"The challenge to a volcanologist today is to educate Third World peoples regarding volcanos and to work with their governments to develop evacuation plans. For people will continue to live and work in those areas where there is rich soil despite the possibility of danger," he says.

A physics major from the University

of Illinois, Lalla became interested in volcanology while in school, but he was drafted and sent to White Sands Missile Range to work in the Atmospheric Science Laboratory where he designed small atmospheric rockets and instrumentation devices to measure atmospheric density changes.

In 1973 Lalla headed north to the University of Fairbanks to work in auroral physics. There he met Jeurgien Kienle, a top volcanologist who helped him get started in his desired field.

Doug is involved in the minerals evaluation of federal lands in the state during work hours, but in his free time he continues to work on his Mt. Augustine thesis with his longtime mentor.



Doug Lalla



# 1974 Alaska Land Status Map Updated



*Garth Olson (l) and John Douts put the finishing touches on the new map.*

A new updated version of the Alaska land status map is nearing completion. "Whereas the 1974 map was all done by hand, the new version is computer generated," said Garth Olson, photolithographer in ASO's Branch of Photogrammetry.

To create this map Olson and fellow photolithographer John Douts took township resolution information from digital files located in the Alaska Automated Land Records System and Alaska Hydrography Digitizing System.

They then nail scribed it on a stable base material via a computer driven plotter. The map base includes the coastline and major rivers, township and range grids, latitude and longitude, Native regional corporation boundaries, ANCSA villages and major cities.

State lands (TA & patented), Native lands (IC and patented) and federal lands as defined by ANILCA, including F&WS, NPS, BLM, USFS lands, Wild & Scenic Rivers, and major military lands are scribed over the base information. The colors used for each category of federal land conform to the wilderness maps prepared by BLM for the other western states. All areas which fall outside federal, state or Native lands are designated as "under BLM interim management", subject to selection by the state or Natives.

After all the layers of information have been scribed, photogrammetry makes a duplicate negative of the information and creates peel-coat overlays. All the layers of map information are then registered to each other to form the final map. "We register together all the layers. The map layers must line up to 1/1000 of an inch," said Douts. Once the map is registered, it will be sent to the Government Printing Office in Seattle where it is contracted out for printing.

According to Olson, "Photogrammetry expects 1000 copies to be available by the end of June. Now that the map information is stored in the computer, it can be updated every one to two years to keep it current with the state's constantly changing land base."

## Accolades

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**James Morgan**, Maintenance  
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**Donald Goen**, Maintenance Mechanic  
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**Bill Baker**, Maintenance Mechanic,  
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ASO Division of Minerals

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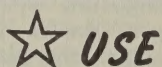
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